

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00240

~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

CD NO.

25X1A2a

COUNTRY Bolivia

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 11 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Negotiations for Sale of Arms to Bolivian
 Government

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A6a
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. Prior to 22 February 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Prior to his departure from La Paz on 21 February 1949, Rene Seiler, Swiss arms dealer, concluded arrangements for the sale of 250 submachine guns to the Ministry of the Interior for use by the police. These submachine guns have a 9 mm. bore and a 40-cartridge magazine. The price is \$125 per gun, with delivery by air promised in about six weeks. One sample gun which was demonstrated bore the inscription "Societe Industrielle Suisse, Neuhausen", while another bore no trade mark. Seiler stated that the manufacturer is a firm named Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft Neuhausen am Rheinfall (Schweitz).
2. It is reported that before the negotiations were completed, the Minister of the Interior, Alfredo Mollinedo, had serious misgivings about purchasing arms from Seiler. Mollinedo had received information that Seiler was involved in large scale secret negotiations for the sale of arms in Siam. The Minister stated that he was concerned lest the arms sale in Siam further disturb the peace in that area. He did not want the Bolivian government to be involved with such an arms trafficker.

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3. In La Paz, Seiler was observed frequently in the company of the following individuals:

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- a. Jose Manuel Nunez, an Argentine salesman, 32 years old,

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- b. Estanislao Dubin, an Argentine, 36 years old,

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- c. Pedro Berastegui S., an Argentine, 26 years old,

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- d. Leon Silberman, an Argentine, 23 years old,

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- e. Vera Mengod Garcia, a Spanish insurance agent, about 30 years old,

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[illegible]

This document is hereby upgraded to
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NO CHANGE in CLASS.

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CLASS. CHANGED TO.

DDA MATCO

Auth: ~~DDA REC 77~~

0457R0024006900

44-18 MAY 1978

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f. Osvaldo Salinas, a Bolivian.

g. General David Toro, former president of Bolivia.

h. William Peter Mitchell, a British subject, 42 years of age, who arrived with Seiler.

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i. Rodolfo Badrut, manager of the Circulo Peruano in La Paz.

4. Seiler's associate in Argentina, Pablo Eitner, reportedly held a high position in the German Army during World War II.

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